

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

July, Aug. & Sept. 2006



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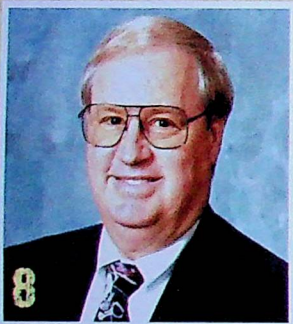
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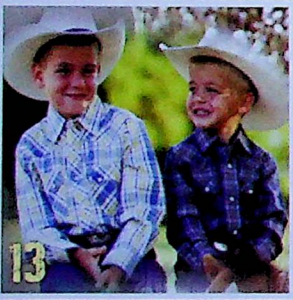
**Former State FFA Officers
Travel Internationally**



**Outstanding Agricultural
Educators Recognized**



**State Representative
Robert Walker to Chair
House Education Committee**



**Barns, Bar-B-Que and Bales
of Cotton**



John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

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Ashton Berry—*Secretary*, Saluda, SC
Katie McCannon—*Vice President*, Pendleton, SC
Allen Wright—*Vice President*, McBee, SC
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Former State FFA Officer Dorn Spent July Teaching in Russia

Erskine College junior Jonathan Dorn, a 2004-05 state FFA officer and member of the Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter, spent July in Russia teaching conversational English to college students, a unique opportunity coordinated by Educational Services International.

Dorn taught introductory and immediate level English classes in Novgorod, a city two hours south of St. Petersburg.

"Many of my students were environmentalist and since the class was about conversational English, we had an opportunity to discuss agricultural and environmental issues that face Russia," Dorn said.

According to Dorn, Russia is an agricultural nation because so many people are dependent on home-grown food for subsistence. The concept of supermarkets is just beginning, but the Russian people are reluctant to become dependent on store-bought and processed food.

Dorn stated that his training in agricultural communications as an FFA member was invaluable in helping him frame the issues that were important to his students. "Being knowledgeable and



Jonathan Dorn on Nevsky Prospect in the city of St. Petersburg.

able to discuss what was important to them gave me credibility as a teacher," he emphasized.

A recipient of the Silver Proficiency Award in Agricultural Communications by the National FFA Organization, Dorn was captain of the first FFA team from South Carolina to compete in the International Cannon-sponsored Envirothon. Named to Who's Who Among American High School Students, Jonathan was named an All-American Scholar. He was also selected for membership in the United States Achievement Academy.

Jonathan is the son of Michael and Rhonda Dorn of Calhoun Falls. His FFA Advisor is Calvert Sherard, Agricultural Education Teacher at Calhoun Falls High School. ~

Former State FFA President Berry Studies in the Commonwealth of Dominica

Blake Berry, an Agricultural Education graduate student at Clemson University and former state FFA president, spent 13 days in Dominica this summer with other students and Clemson University faculty to fulfill the requirements of a course entitled Tropical Biodiversity. The study trip was sponsored by the Biological Sciences Department and led by Dr. Kalan Ickes, a research assistant professor.

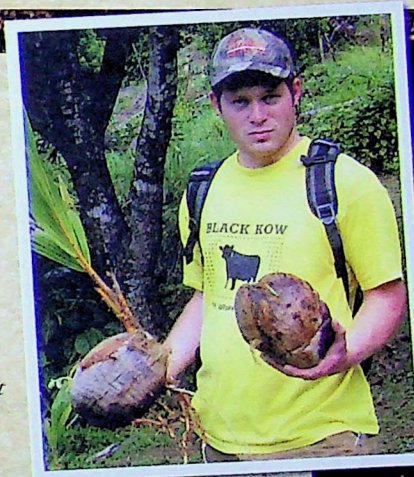
"We learned about tropical ecology, botany, entomology and agriculture," Berry said. "We also received an overview of marine ecology by scuba diving in a coral reef and whale watching," he added. The group observed a Hawk's Bill Sea Turtle nest and witnessed the hatching of a turtle egg.

The group traversed most of the island with a combination of hikes and van tours. They also scaled Morne Diablotins, the tallest mountain on the island and observed how forest types were affected by the rise in elevation.

The group trekked 11 miles through the Valley of Desolation and past sulfur vents to view a boiling lake. The students saw a number of beautiful waterfalls and were constantly on the lookout for two endangered species of parrots (the Sisserou and Jaco) and actually spotted a Jaco.

According to Berry, the group viewed first hand the subsistence farming prevalent among the residents. Island agriculture includes the production of papaya, bananas,

Blake Berry displays a ripened coconut and one in a stage of germination. Coconuts, a main form of subsistence for Dominicans, are found throughout the Island.



plantains, mangos, pineapple, citrus, yams, dasheen and goats.

"A highlight of the trip was a visit to the group by the Prime Minister of the Island and the Minister of Agriculture," Berry said.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Agricultural Education, Berry is an alumnus of the Hillcrest FFA Chapter in Simpsonville. He has been recognized as the State FFA Star in Agribusiness by the SC FFA Association and presented the John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Award by the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization. He was named the Outstanding Senior in Agricultural Education at Clemson University in 2005.

Berry, the son of Michael and Rebecca Berry of Fountain Inn, has also studied at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. His FFA advisors at Hillcrest High School were Clark Woods and Jeff Murdock. ~



State FFA Officers Meet with President Bush at White House

Amanda Hiott of Williston, president of the South Carolina FFA Association, and State FFA Secretary Ashton Berry of Saluda, joined officers from states throughout the nation to meet with President Bush at the White House while in Washington attending a National Conference for State FFA Presidents and Secretaries held July 25-30.

The officers also met with members of the SC Congressional Delegation and Major General Arnold Fields, retired from the US Marine Corps, and a former National NFA Officer from Early Branch, SC.

General Arnold Fields welcomed State FFA Secretary Ashton Berry and State FFA President Amanda Hiott to Washington, DC.



SC FFA Members Attend Washington Leadership Conference

FFA members and advisors from throughout South Carolina attended a National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, July 24-30. In addition to attending leadership training activities, they also participated in a community service event to harvest green vegetables in concert with the Mid Atlantic Gleaning Network for food banks in the Washington-Baltimore area. The group, including FFA members from throughout the country, filled two refrigerated trucks with fresh green vegetables within two hours.

The SC FFA delegation also met with members of Congress and visited numerous points of interest while in the Washington area.

South Carolinians attending included State FFA Vice President Katie McCannon of Pendleton; Aiken members Conner Bennett, Taylor Watts, Brittany Neese, Sabine Harmon, Scottie West, Blake Cantrell and Michael Richardson; Wagener-Salley members Kristen Williams, Michael Waits and Christopher Salley; Carolina Forest member Lindsey Todd; B.J. Skelton Technology Center member Ali Datko; Indian Land members Desiree Kineer and Danielle Lutz; Belton-Honea Path member Jennifer Martin; Anderson member Jared Coplan; Edisto members Brittany Mixon, Abi Mixon and Shayla Ashe. Ashley Granata, a member of the Clemson University

Collegiate FFA Organization also attended. FFA advisors who accompanied the group to Washington included Joe Wilson of Aiken, Allen Williams of Wagener-Salley and Barry Hawkins of Edisto who coordinated the trip for the SC FFA Association.

Above: SC FFA delegation with Congressman Joe Wilson of Lexington.

Below: FFA members harvesting greens for food banks.



State FFA Officers in Action...



Carolina Celebration of Liberty

State FFA Vice President **Katie McCannon** (left), State President **Amanda Hiott** and State Vice President **Allen Wright** at the Carolina Celebration of Liberty Pageant at Columbia's First Baptist Church on Sunday, July 2. The pageant was televised statewide on July 4.



State FFA Officers Tour Agricultural Research Centers

State FFA Officers **Ashton Berry** and **Lara Boyd** with Edisto REC Entomology staff member **Will Henderson** and other State Officers **Tyler Brown**, **Amanda Hiott** and **Katie McCannon** observing research on cotton at the Edisto Research and Education Center near Blackville. They also learned about research underway on beef cattle, watermelons and other agricultural crops.

The state officers also visited the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence where they observed research on turf grass, corn, soybeans and muscadines. Another highlight of their tour was a visit to the new environmental science center and nature trails at the Pee Dee REC.



Lexington County Peach Festival

State FFA Secretary **Ashton Berry** (left) with State FFA President **Amanda Hiott**, US Senator **Jim DeMint**, Gilbert FFA Chapter President **Casey Attaway** and Chapter Secretary **Kristen Miller** at the Dignitaries Luncheon following the Festival Parade in which they participated.

Other government officials in attendance included Governor **Mark Sanford**, US Congressman **Joe Wilson**, State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers**, State Treasurer **Grady Patterson**, State Senator **Tommy Moore**, State Senator and FFA Alumnus **Ronnie Cromer**, State Senator **Jake Knotts**, State Representatives **Nikki Haley**, **Mac Toole**, **Ted Pitts** and others. South Carolina is second only to California in the production of fresh peaches.



State FFA Officers Participate in SC Peanut Festival Parade

State FFA President **Amanda Hiott** (left) and State FFA Secretary **Ashton Berry** participated in the SC Peanut Festival Parade in Pelion on August 12. The Pelion FFA Chapter sponsored an antique truck and tractor show in conjunction with the festival. Among the other dignitaries who attended the event were Governor **Mark Sanford** and his family and State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers**.



State FFA Officers Attend Saluda Truck and Tractor Pull

State FFA President **Amanda Hiott** and State Secretary **Ashton Berry** attended the 29th annual Saluda County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter-sponsored Grand National Truck and Tractor Pull on August 11.

Amanda addressed the thousands in attendance and Ashton gave the invocation at the beginning of the program. **Roman Whitfield**, President of the Saluda Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, presented \$8000 in college scholarships to six local students.

Amanda Nichols (left), Agricultural Education Teacher and FFA advisor at Saluda High School, with Saluda FFA member **Joshua Nicholson**, State FFA Secretary **Ashton Berry** of Saluda, State FFA President **Amanda Hiott** of Williston, and Saluda FFA member **Lisa Stone**.

The two-day event was video-taped by the National RFD-TV Satellite Network for release later this year. The network reaches more than 30 million homes throughout the nation.

State FFA Officers Participate in SC Apple Festival

State FFA President **Amanda Hiott** and State Vice President **Katie McCannon** attended the South Carolina Apple Festival in Westminster on September 8. They were honored guests at the Westminster Rotary Club Dignitaries Luncheon where they met US Congressman **Gresham Barrett**, State Representative **William Sandifer**, Oconee County School District Superintendent **Dr. Valerie Truesdale**, and a host of

other government and education leaders. They also rode in the festival parade in downtown Westminster.

State FFA President **Amanda Hiott** (standing at right) with State Vice President **Katie McCannon** and **Josh O'Rear**, South Carolina's candidate for National FFA Office and Clemson University sophomore from Aiken; and **Chris Moss** of Walhalla, a former State FFA officer and graduate student at Clemson University in Agricultural Education.



Greenville County Teachers Named State's Outstanding Agricultural Educators

Clark Woods, a member of the faculty at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville, and Matt Rollins, a faculty member at Woodmont High School near Piedmont, were recognized as South Carolina's top Agricultural Science Teachers during a press conference at Hillcrest High School, August 22.

Mr. Woods was recognized as the Outstanding Agricultural Science Educator and Mr. Rollins as the Outstanding Young



Agricultural Science Educator. Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent of the Greenville County School District, praised them for their superb accomplishments and presented each one engraved plaques on behalf of the South Carolina Agricultural Educators Association.

Hillcrest High School Principal Steve Chamness presided at the event which drew agricultural, education and conservation leaders from throughout the up-state, including a number of Clemson University Agricultural Education officials. The media was represented by WYFF-TV in Greenville, WSPA-TV in Spartanburg, the South

State FFA President Amanda Hiott (left); Dr. Phinnize Fisher; Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education, Clemson University; and Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program Coordinator of Agricultural Education, Clemson University, at the press conference.



Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent of Greenville County School District, congratulates Agricultural Science Educators Clark Woods (left) and Matt Rollins.

Carolina News Network, the Greenville Journal, the Tribune Times, the Williamston Journal, the SC Agricultural Education magazine *AGRIBIZ* and others.

The press conference was planned and coordinated by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs for Agricultural Education, and Susan Clark, an official with the Greenville County School District's Office of Public Relations.

SC Agricultural Educators Hold State Conference

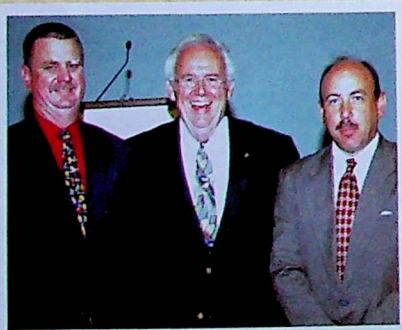
The SC Agricultural Educators Association's annual conference was held at Horry-Georgetown Technical College near Myrtle Beach, July 17-20, 2006. The program included presentations on Pesticide Certification and Invasive Plant Species by staff at HGTC. Workshops on the Golf Industry, Golf and Sports Turf Management,

Turfgrass Management, Irrigation Systems, Bio-diesel Energy, and Geographic Information Systems in the Classroom were also conducted by HGTC staff.

Other highlights of the conference included golf at Quail Creek, a tour of Brookgreen Gardens, Lunch at Huntington Beach State Park and the Awards and Recognition Banquet at HGTC's Grandstand Conference Center.

Association President Steve McCannon presided at the banquet where Al Walker of Chapin, a nationally recognized speaker, entertained and inspired a receptive audience.

Steve McCannon (left) with Al Walker and Dr. Phil Fravel, Agricultural Education Faculty member at Clemson University, who served as coordinator of Professional Training for the conference.



Roger M. Estridge, Jr. of Iva, SC, a member of the Agricultural Education faculty at Crescent High School, was named the new president of the association. Other officers of the organization are: Harry DuBose, Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach, President-Elect; Steve McCannon, B.J. Skelton Career Center, Easley, Past President; Barry Hawkins, Edisto High School, Cordova, Secretary-Treasurer; Melanie Birchmore, Laurens, Vice President; Derrick Cooper, Gilbert, Vice President; Joan Alexander, Florence Career Center, Vice President; Virgil Nichols, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School, Neeses, Vice President; Mark Earle, Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville, Associate Vice President; Amanda Nichols, Saluda, Associate Vice President; Stacey Bazen, Aynor, Associate Vice President; and Thomas Dawkins, Estill, Associate Vice President.

Outstanding Agricultural Education Programs Recognized

The Blythewood High School Agricultural Science Department, headed by Tom Willingham, was named the Outstanding Secondary School Program in the state by the SC Agricultural Educators Association for 2006.

The Barnwell County Career Center's Adult Agricultural Education Program, under the leadership of Mindy Sandifer, was named the Outstanding Continuing Education Program for Adults in the state for 2006 by the Agricultural Educators.

Held in Horry County SC Young Farmer- Agribusiness Tour is Great Success

Farmers, other agribusiness officials and agricultural educators from throughout South Carolina participated in the successful State Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association summer tour July 20-21 in Horry County.

Harry DuBose, Agricultural Education Teacher at Carolina Forest High School, served as chairman of the event. Other agricultural education teachers in Horry County who served on the Planning and Arrangements Committee were Darrell W. Ricketts, Socastee High School; Nate Bellamy, Loris High School; Stacey Bazen, Aynor High School; Lee Mayfield, Green Sea-Floyds High School; and Ernest Schoonover, North Myrtle Beach High School.

Highlights of the tour were visits to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Hardee Equipment Manufacturing Company, Tyler's Tobacco Farm, La Belle Amie Vineyard and Winery, Grande Dunes Golf and Country Club and Cal Ripkin, Jr. Athletic Complex. The tour concluded with a bar-b-que lunch at Socastee High School

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority was the first landfill in South Carolina to collect and transform the naturally produced methane gas into electricity with Santee Cooper and Horry Electric.

prepared by Agricultural Educator Darrell Ricketts.

Sponsors of the tour included the Agricultural Education Departments in Horry County, Clemson University Extension Service in Horry County, Clemson University Agricultural Education Department, Horry County Gardening Society, Coca Cola Bottling Company, Coast to Coast Bus Lines, SC Department of Agriculture, Horry County Department of Education, Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and Richard's Bar-B-Que.

State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and a former president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, addressed the participants during dinner on Thursday evening. ~

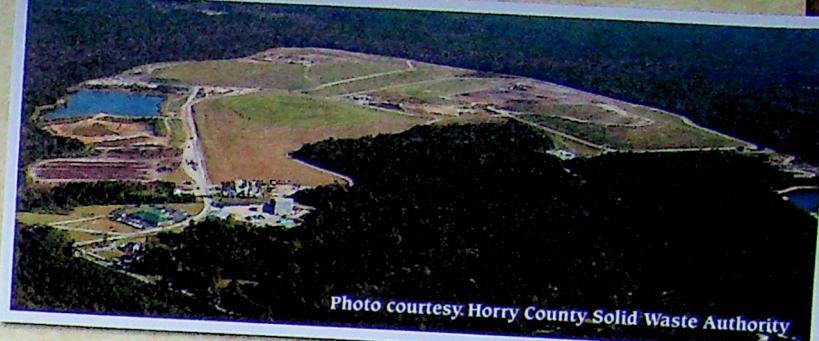


Photo courtesy: Horry County Solid Waste Authority

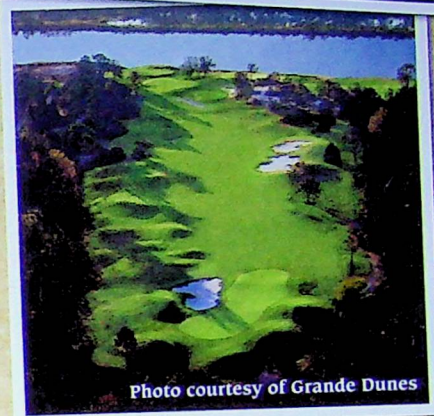


Photo courtesy of Grande Dunes

Above: Grande Dunes Golf Course is a spectacular golf destination that is drawing rave reviews for both its design and conditioning. Set high on a bluff overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, this dramatic design delivers panoramic views of the Waterway and maritime forest.

Below: Harry DuBose, Chairman of the Tour and Agricultural Education Teacher at Carolina Forest High School; Robert Stafford, Vice President of the State Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association; Roger Smith, President-elect of the Association; Henry Herndon, President of the Association; Ricky McDaniel, Past President; and Edsel Williams, Treasurer.

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Conference

January 19-20, 2007

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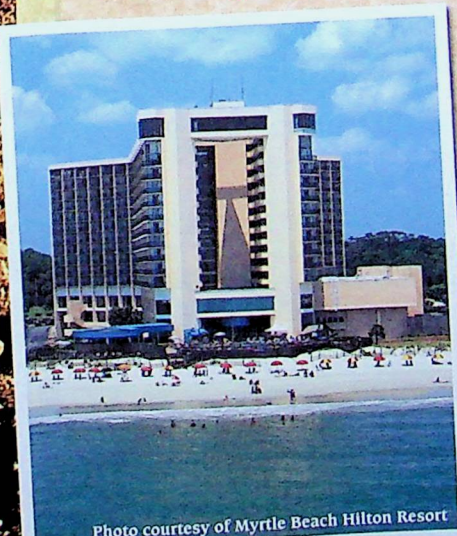


Photo courtesy of Myrtle Beach Hilton Resort



Gleason Receives Governor's Physical Fitness Award

Former State FFA officer Alex D. Gleason of Calhoun Falls, a senior at Erskine College, received the Governor's Individual Physical Fitness Award at a ceremony held at half-time during the University of South Carolina and Auburn football game on September 28.

The awards program is coordinated by the Governor's Physical Fitness Council and honors outstanding leaders in the field of physical activity.

An alumnus of the Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter, Gleason brought national attention to the South Carolina FFA Association last year by bicycling across the nation promoting physical fitness and healthy living. His trip, known as

Expedition Nutrition, was designed to reach FFA members and others with his message. He appeared on TV and radio news programs nation-wide, including a live interview on the nationally syndicated AGRI-TALK Radio Show which originates in St. Louis, Missouri, and reaches 25 states. His arrival in Charleston was reported by three major TV networks, radio and the Associated Press nation-wide. His trip was also reported by newspapers and magazines across the nation, including the National FFA's NEW HORIZON magazine. He was guest on the RFD-TV Satellite Network Show "FFA Today" a few weeks after his successful expedition.



Governor Sanford congratulates Alex Gleason

Gleason is the son of Terry and Sherrie Gleason. His FFA Advisor is Calvert Sherard, Agricultural Science Teacher at Calhoun Falls High School.

Waggoner Wins RFD-TV National FFA Competition

Emily Waggoner, a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter and former State FFA Association Secretary, was named national winner of the RFD-TV Network's "Watch and Win" competition following the August 21, 2006 "FFA Today" show.



Emily Waggoner

The TV network posts questions about subjects discussed on each "FFA Today" telecast for FFA members across the nation to answer and compete for merchandise provided by the National FFA Service Center.

Emily, a sophomore at Clemson University majoring in Animal and Pre-Veterinary Science, is the daughter of Steve and Kitty Waggoner. Her FFA advisor is Josh Murdock, Agricultural Education Teacher at Pendleton High School.

SC FFA Alumnus Rep. Walker to Chair House Education Committee

State Representative Robert E. "Bob" Walker of Landrum, SC, is the new Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee. He has represented House District 38 in upper Spartanburg County since 1993.

A graduate of Landrum High School, Chairman Walker was an active member of the Landrum FFA Chapter. While in high school he was awarded an expense-paid trip to the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, as the Spartanburg County FFA Federation public speaking champion.

Mr. Walker served as first vice chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee for a number of years prior to being named chairman. He is also a member of the Education Oversight Committee.

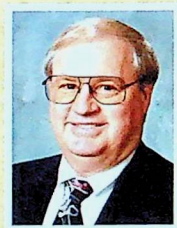
A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Mr. Walker also

graduated from the US Air Force Pilot School and received his Pilot Wings in

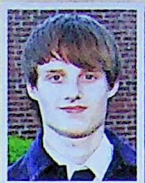
1966. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of School District 1 in Spartanburg County and on the Spartanburg County School Board.

Among his many awards, Chairman Walker has been named Legislator of the Year by the SC Home Builders Association. He is a member and deacon of Landrum First Baptist Church.

Chairman Walker, a Real Estate Broker and Insurance Agent, served in the US Air Force as an officer and pilot from 1965-70.



*State Rep.
Robert E. Walker*



Matthew Dorn



Ginger Givens



Samuel Hall



Rebecca Keller



Brandi Laws



Blake Long



Emily Nance



Emily Waggoner

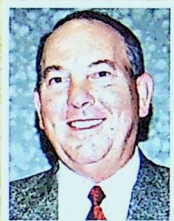
SC Students Named National FFA Scholars

Eight South Carolina FFA members were named National FFA Scholars by the National FFA Organization earlier this year.

Matthew Dorn, Calhoun Falls Chapter, awarded a \$1000 by BASF Agricultural Products; **Ginger Givens**, West Oak Chapter, awarded \$1000 by BASF Agricultural Products; **Samuel Hall**, York Chapter, awarded \$1500 by Monsanto Company and National Association of Farm Broadcasters;

Rebecca Keller, York Chapter, awarded \$1000 by Champion Laboratories and Luber-finer; **Brandi Laws**, West Oak Chapter, awarded \$1000 by Dodge Trucks; **Blake Long**, Clover Chapter, awarded \$1000 by Ford Trucks; **Emily Nance**, York Chapter, awarded \$1500 by Monsanto Company and National Farm Broadcaster Association; and **Emily Waggoner**, Pendleton Chapter, awarded \$1300 by United Agri-Products.

Criteria used in selection of scholarship awardees include academic achievement, ACT or SAT scores and class rank, leadership in the FFA and their Supervised Agricultural Education Experience Program. The National FFA Foundation awards more than \$2 million annually to outstanding FFA members from throughout the nation. ~



Thomas S. Welsh

FFA Alumni Spotlight... Welsh is Executive Vice President of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank

South Carolina
FFA Alumnus
Thomas S. Welsh,
Executive Vice

President of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, headquartered in Columbia, SC, is the Chief Administrative and Legislative Officer for the bank. He also serves on the Bank Executive Committee and chairs the Operations Committee.

A native of Lee County where he grew up on a row-crop farm and was an FFA member, Mr. Welsh graduated from Clemson University with a BS Degree in Agricultural Education with emphasis on Agricultural Economics in 1970. He is also a graduate of the Executive Program of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Mr. Welsh is a U.S. Army veteran having served as a Lieutenant in the air defense artillery from 1970-72.

Mr. Welsh has been a banker since 1972 when he entered the management-training program at the Farm Credit Bank of Columbia. In 1974 he was named president of the Orangeburg, SC, Production Credit Association. Four years later, he returned to Columbia as a marketing officer of the Federal Land Bank and Federal Intermediate Credit Bank. In 1981 he was named

vice president of the credit/supervision department for 8 years. In 1989, he was named Senior Vice President and Chief Planning and Marketing Officer. In 1998, he was promoted to the position he holds today.

A part of the Columbia, SC community since 1916, AgFirst is the largest financial institution headquartered in South Carolina. The bank is part of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of agricultural lenders and the largest single lender to agriculture in the United States.

AgFirst Bank's customers are 23 farmer-owned Agricultural Credit Associations (ACA's) serving 80,000 customers in 15 states and Puerto Rico.

AgFirst also operates a growing Capital Markets unit that arranges and participates in loans for agribusiness across the nation, and a Secondary Mortgage Market department that buys, sells and services rural home and agriculture loans. AgFirst is governed by a stockholder-elected Board of Directors.

Mr. Welsh is a recipient of the prestigious Blue and Gold Award as an Outstanding FFA Alumnus and was awarded the Honorary State FFA Degree earlier this year. ~



William Nelson



Flint Holbrook

SC FFA Members Attend National Cooperative Education Conference

Laurens FFA Chapter President **William Nelson** and Clover FFA Chapter Officer **Flint Holbrook** attended the National Institute of Cooperative Education at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, July 30-August 2. They were sponsored by the SC Cooperative Council.

The National Institute is a four-day conference held on a university campus each year. The theme of this year's conference was "Cooperatives: A Necessity of the Past, A key to the Future." The primary objective of the conference is to increase the understanding of basic cooperative principles including how they are organized and operated.

Nelson and Holbrook were accompanied by Marie Stiles, executive director of the SC Cooperative Council. ~

Corzine Named Associate State Director of Agricultural Education in South Carolina



Chris M. Corzine

Chris M. Corzine of Starr, SC, was named Associate State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University effective July 1, 2006.

While serving as an agricultural educator at Crescent

High School in Iva, SC, Corzine was named the Outstanding Teacher in Anderson School District 3, the Outstanding Young Agricultural Educator in South Carolina and the Outstanding Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter Advisor in the state.

Under his leadership, the Crescent Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter was selected as the Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program in the

Southern States Region and one of the top five in the nation. A member of the chapter was named the state champion swine producer. Other members took top state honors in beef cattle production and farm shop development. More than one member was honored as the Outstanding Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter President in the state and others were named the Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year in the state.

Corzine was primarily responsible for the Crescent FFA Chapter being awarded the Governor's Citation of Accomplishment at the state level for two years. He coached two state FFA officers, one State FFA Star Farmer, fourteen State FFA Proficiency Award winners, including one National Finalist in the Diversified Agriculture Production category. He also coached a State Champion Tractor Operation and

Safety Team and a State Runner-up Agricultural Mechanics Team for four years. He managed the largest FFA Livestock Showmanship Exhibition in the state.

A member of the SC Agricultural Educators Association and the National Association of Agricultural Educators, Corzine serves on the SC Junior Beef Round-Up Committee and the Board of Directors of Tri-County Technical College's Welding Department. He and his wife, Andrea, are active members of Good Hope Baptist Church.

A native of Irving, Texas, Corzine grew up in Fort Worth. He earned a BS Degree in Agricultural Services and Development at Tarleton State University in Texas, a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education from Clemson University and an Administration Certification in Education from Clemson. 

Parris Honored by Clemson University Alumni



John W. Parris

John W. Parris of Columbia, SC, has been named an Alumni Fellow by the Clemson University Alumni Association for outstanding career accomplishments.

A 1958 graduate of Clemson, Parris began his career as an

agricultural educator but served 28 years as a state conservation administrator, first as associate director of the SC Soil and Water Conservation Commission then as executive director of the SC Land Resources Commission for 22 years. He retired from

state government in 1994 after 36 years of service.

Throughout his career, Parris has been active in numerous professional and civic organizations. He served as president of the SC Soil and Water Conservation Society, the SC Agricultural Council, the historic Pendleton Farmers Society and chairman of Clemson University's National Agricultural Alumni Board. He chaired the first Eastern States Drip Irrigation Conference and the first Tri-State Dams and Reservoir Safety Conference. He arranged for transfer of the state-owned Roper Mountain property to Greenville County School District for development of the nationally recognized Roper Mountain Science Center.

Parris was the first South Carolinian named to the Conservation Hall of Fame by the National Association of Conservation Districts. A recipient of Clemson's Centennial Distinguished Agricultural Alumni Award, Parris was named Man of the Year in Agriculture in South Carolina by the Progressive Farmer magazine. A recipient of the National FFA Organization's prestigious VIP Award, Parris was also awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest honor for public service, by Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.

Parris currently serves as state director of public affairs for the SC FFA organization and editor of *AgriBiz*, South Carolina's agricultural education magazine. 



Edsel Williams

Williams to Chair National Young Farmer Institute

Edsel Williams of Britton's Neck, SC, past president of the National Young Farmer Education Association and a member of the National Council on Agriculture Education, has been named chairman of the 2008 National Young

Farmer Institute scheduled to be held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Williams, executive treasurer of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, and his wife, JoAnn, are long-time leaders in the state and national young farmer associations. 

Fish Project: Agriculture Class is Raising Catfish

By Charmain Z. Brackett, Correspondent for the AUGUSTA CHRONICLE
Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Though it's not unusual for a classroom to have fish tank, the one in Jeremy Brooks' agriculture class at Midland Valley High School makes most of the others look like goldfish bowls.

"It's a 600-gallon recirculating tank" that holds more than 80 catfish, Mr. Brooks said.

"This is part of our natural resource programming. Not many others in the state do this," he said.

The small catfish will be monitored for the next three months. Water samples are taken daily to test for pH, ammonia and dissolved oxygen levels.

The goal is to grow the catfish to about one pound each by Christmas, Mr. Brooks said. The catfish will be sold. Some will find their way into area ponds, he said, while others will end up on someone's dinner table.

"They will taste cleaner than wild catfish. People are wanting to buy them," said Mr. Brooks, who plans to use the profits to buy more fish, two tanks and other equipment.

Part of Logan Jackson's senior project is monitoring the fish and their habitat.

"It's real interesting watching the fish," he said. "I'd like to see how big I can grow them."



photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

Jeremy Brooks (left) watches as Logan Jackson frees a catfish from the net in Mr. Brooks' class at Midland Valley High School.

Though there are certain chemical parameters necessary for optimum catfish growth, Logan said they can survive in less-than-optimum conditions.

Mr. Brooks said this new project fits in with the curriculum he has implemented at the school during the past five years.

Before his arrival at the school, the program was more horticulture-based than natural resource-based, he said.

Projects he introduced include the planting of deer food plots, a Christmas tree farm and the maintenance of eight miles of nature trails around the school.

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Union Agricultural Education Department Cosponsors Antique Farm Show

Thousands attended an Antique Farm Show at the Union County Fairgrounds, September 15-17, 2006.

The event, cosponsored by Union High School's Agricultural Education Department headed by Cleveland Jackson, was well represented by local FFA and Young Farmer-Agribusiness chapter members.

The show featured a large display of restored antique farm tractors and other farm equipment and instruments. Other interesting exhibits included a blacksmith shop, an old-fashioned cooking demonstration, a quilt show and

farm animals, just to name a few.

Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University, addressed a breakfast meeting of young farmers and agribusiness leaders on Saturday, September 16 in conjunction with the show.



Tyler Crocker (left), president of the Union High School FFA Chapter, five-year-old Bailey Black, Cleveland Jackson, and FFA member Chris Dudley.

Myrtle Beach FFA at Carolina Forest High School Annual Golf Tournament

MyrtleWood Golf Club
48th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC

January 27, 2007

8:00 AM—Registration
9:00 AM—Shotgun Start
2:00 PM—Awards Presentation and Auction

For Information contact Harry DuBose,
Horticulture Instructor and FFA Advisor
843-236-7997 ext 2054
FAX 843-236-7504
E-mail: hdubose@cfed.hcs.k12.sc.us



Doolittle Awarded Scholarships

Ashley Doolittle,
immediate past president
of the Strom Thurmond

Technology Center FFA Chapter, was awarded the Hilton V. Rogers \$500 scholarship by the SC Fertilizer and Agri-Chemicals Association at the State FFA Convention earlier this year.

Ashley received a number of other scholarships including: Strom Thurmond Foundation-\$1000; Aiken Electric Cooperative-\$1000; National Wild Turkey Federation-\$1000; SC Soil and Water Conservation Society-\$1000; Johnston Jaycees' Robert Herlong Memorial Scholarship-\$500; Strom Thurmond Class of 1966-\$600; Life Scholarship-\$5000 and others.

A freshman at Clemson University, Ashley is majoring in Wildlife Biology.

Ashley's Guidance Counselor at Strom Thurmond Technology Center is Mrs. Patricia Bryan and her FFA Advisors are Hugh Bland and Dan Henderson, Agricultural Education Teachers at the Center.

Laurens FFA Members Host "Down on the Farm Day"

"One of the most interesting and rewarding community service activities is 'Down On the Farm Day,' says William Nelson, President of the Laurens FFA Chapter.

More than 300 kindergarten students participated in an agricultural education experience at the Thornwell Home and School for Children on September 12, sponsored by the Laurens FFA Chapter. "An impressive display of animals, including some of the Thornwell Farm's prized Guernsey cows and others brought by FFA members, helped make the event an overwhelming success," Nelson said. There were also other activities such as hay rides for the visitors to enjoy, he added.

The FFA members were assisted by their advisor, Melanie Birchmore, agricultural education teacher at Laurens District 55 High School, Laura Blind, director of the Joe Adair Environmental Science Center, and Doug Sims, manager of Lush Acres, the dairy farm at Thornwell. ~



Southern States Agricultural Education Leaders Meet at Myrtle Beach

Agricultural Education administrators from throughout the south participated in a professional conference in Myrtle Beach, September 18-21, 2006. The event was planned and coordinated by Billy Keels, state director of agricultural education with Clemson University and members of his staff.

Officials pictured above (left to right seated) are: Ann Horne and Bruce Lazarus, Arkansas; Harry Thompson and Melvin Thompson, Georgia; Standing (left to right) Steve Sanderson, South Carolina; Ben Lastly and Cindy Greene, Georgia; Marion Fletcher, Arkansas; Harry DuBose, Agri-Science and Horticulture teacher at Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach; Chip Bridges, Georgia; Jeff Papke, National FFA Foundation; Wilbur Chancellor,

Mississippi; Steve Gass, Tennessee; John Wilkerson, Georgia and Chris Corzine, South Carolina.

Others in attendance but not pictured included: Billy Keels and Keith Cox, South Carolina; Gerald Barlowe, David Harris, Joshua Sterling, Horace, Jason Davis, Aaron Fleming and Benjie Forest of North Carolina; Dennis Judy, National FFA Foundation; Cliff Ratliff, Learning Labs, Inc., Dan Pentony, CAERT, Inc; and Jasper Lee, Prentice Hall Publishing Company.

"The conference provided an excellent opportunity for agricultural education leaders from the southern states to share ideas and discuss national issues affecting the future of agricultural education," Mr. Keels said. ~



Laurens FFA Chapter members prepare for "Down on the Farm Day" at the Thornwell Home and School for Children in Clinton, SC.

Aynor FFA Team Takes Top State Honors

Aynor High School FFA members took first place state honors in the SC FFA-sponsored Farm Business Management Finals held at Clemson University this summer. Team member Daniel Rabon was the high individual scorer and Alison Larrimore was the third high scorer.

The team members and their advisor, Stacey Bazen, were awarded expense-paid trips to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, to compete in the National Finals. ~

State Champion Team members Charlye Nobles (left), Daniel Rabon, Jimmi Lynn Jennerette and Alison Larrimore with Stacey Bazen.

Manning FFA Team Named State Champions



Manning High School State Champion Agricultural Issues Team members Kierra Howard (left), Brandy Del'rio, La'Rita Dingle and William Bradshaw with their advisor Michael Haynes (in back). Team members not present for photo were Marrisra Cunningham and Leon Lee.

The students and their advisor, Michael Haynes, were awarded expense-paid trips to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, to compete in the National Finals.



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Agricultural Commemorative Book Needs Your Help to Capture SC Images

The Clemson University College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences Agriculture Alumni and the SC Farm Bureau Foundation are joining forces to publish a limited-edition book entitled, *Barns, Barbecue & Bales of Cotton*. The pictorial publication will be a rural retrospective of South Carolina agriculture featuring the people, places, and flavors that create lasting memories and foster values.

The publishers need assistance from the readers of AGRIBIZ and everyone across South Carolina. You are invited to submit your old and new photographs for a chance to have them included in the book. The book will feature images and captions related to beautiful agricultural buildings and barns, our warm and welcoming hospitality displayed at rural community gatherings with great southern foods and the history of agricultural production and sales of SC agricultural commodities. This 8 1/2" x 11" book, scheduled for fall release in 2007, will feature 260 pages filled with hundreds of photographs submitted by readers like you.

Many photos will be selected for inclusion in the book that represent:

- Rural farm structures including barns, tobacco barns, animal housing and other ag related structures.
- Classic rural social gatherings like church meetings on the grounds, family reunions and holidays, pig roasts, low country seafood boils, hunting excursions, or any joyous rural SC gathering featuring food, fun and fellowship.
- The rich heritage of SC agricultural production from field to market—row crops, animals, eggs, fruits and vegetables, horticulture, cotton, tobacco, the list goes on.

Proceeds from book sales will support youth agricultural education and agriculture college scholarships. This is a very unique project that preserves South Carolina's agricultural past while funding the future dreams of agricultural students.

You are invited to submit photographs for consideration by the publishers. The photo entry form, requirements, and specifications are featured in the associated ad on this page. Interested individuals may contact Kirby Player, 1-800-823-0508 or kplayer@clemson.edu if they need additional information.

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New Wildlife Management Program

The Wildlife Management curriculum is designed to prepare students for entry into the field of developing, conserving and managing wildlife resources. Students will gain an understanding of the principles and develop competence in the production, utilization and conservation of wildlife resources. Students will also learn to communicate and deal effectively with the public. Graduates should qualify as wildlife management technicians with state and federal agencies and private enterprises involved in natural resource management.



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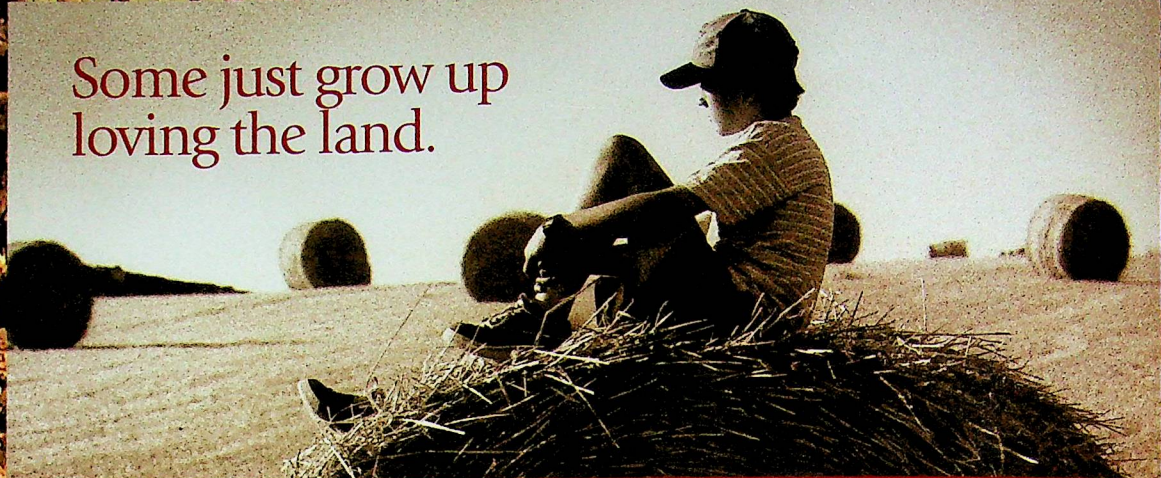
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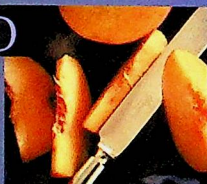
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